



FINAL Minutes

VSS Board of Directors Meeting February 5, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM

Board Members Present –

League Commissioner – Kevin Conklin
Treasurer - Richard Nabel
Internal Competition – Tim Poloski
Public Relations - Jack Frascarelli
Public Relations – John Murphy
Recording Secretary -Gail Gretzmacher
Umpire Committee-Jeff Schiavetti
External Competition- Jim Kenney
Member at large – Bill Hettinger

Guests: Kari Martin (Ravens Manager), Joe Handleman (Orioles)

- *Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023 meeting. Motion passed and Bill will post to the league website.*
- **Opening Comments**
 - *Gail discussed the need to clarify protocol for holding these Board meetings. After discussion, the Board decided to have the meeting remain open to members and managers.*
 - *Changes:*
 - *Only Board members will participate in the core agenda items*
 - *Non-Board members will have the opportunity to make comments but only at the beginning of the meeting with the defined agenda item. Board will listen and have no obligation to make decisions or rulings at that time.*
 - *Special agenda items may include a non-Board member to present (eg: Filing of IRS Form 990)*
- **Treasurer Update – Dick, Gail**
 - *\$4865.98 in the Operating Account*
 - *Next expense for the league will be insurance*
 - *A draft budget prepared by Gail and Dr Nabel was presented. Budget includes 3 major league components: Summer League, Fall League, and Tournaments. Board requested 1 change which will be applied. A formal approval of this revised budget will occur at the March Board meeting,*
 - **IRS Form 990-N filing – Joe Handleman**
 - *The Board expressed appreciation to Joe for his continued work to file the necessary artifact with the IRS annually for our league (990-N)*
 - *Joe reviewed the process needed and that the report was always due by February 15th*
 - *Once Joe files the online form it receives a 'pending' status. Joe then waits a day to confirm status has now moved to an 'accepted' status*
 - *An electronic copy of the 990 form will continue to be posted on the VSS website*
 - *The credentials needed by the Board to access the IRS site (to file the IRS form) could be posted on the VSS web server but not accessible through the VSS Domain. Bill will determine options and review at the March board meeting.*
 - *A paper copy of the process was given to the Recording Secretary*
- **New Business**
 - **Internal Competition – Tim, Bill**
 - *20 league members are signed up; 1 opt-out*

- *It was shared that the Blue Jays will be losing a significant number of their 2023 players*
- *Commissioner to contact the team managers to collect information on who is returning and who will not for league planning purposes*
- *Ball Caps were discussed and the need to purchase new ones. Jack will determine options for new ones with the Board interest in a gray color (light but not showing the dirt as much as white ones)*
- Rules committee recommendations reviewed by the Board - Bill
 - *Appreciation was expressed to Bill for organizing and documenting the committee recommendations (attached separately) as well as to the committee members for participating and offering the Board recommendations.*
 - *Bill led a review of the committee recommendation. The Board reviewed/discussed/evaluated the recommended changes as well as the suggested and not recommended changes.*
 - *Motions were made and approved for the following:*
 - *Mandatory Screen. Pitcher must move behind the screen after pitching but can then come out to field the ball. If pitcher does not move behind screen, they cannot field the ball. Screen must have 1 end of the screen in line with the rubber; distance in front of the mound to be 3-5 feet. Umpire is final decision for any dispute. If the pitcher fields the ball without going behind the screen first, it's a hit. Everybody gets one base.*
 - *Yellow card: Use a yellow card system to warn players during the season. If a player verbally abuses another player, coach, or umpire, they get a yellow card. Yellow card gets issued by umpire during game or by commissioner after game. If you get two yellow cards, this becomes a red card. If a player touches another player in anger, they get red card. First red card, get suspended a game. Second red card, suspended for the season. Umpire should report yellow cards issued to the umpire coordinator and Commissioner.*
 - *A batter cannot be called out before reaching first base on a batted ball that reaches the outfield grass. Runners can be forced or tagged at other bases.*
 - *If a manager is anticipating being short players and in good faith invites a player to play as a sub, that player shall be allowed to play even if one of the team's unexpected missing players shows up unexpectedly.*
 - *New Player process to include : New players will not be placed on a team unless they have attended a tryout or practice or their skills have been evaluated by the commissioner or board members*
 - *Runner from home- existing rule stands that allows a runner from home but they must be on the list at the start of the season and they can come off mid-season. The change is we are no longer allowing players to be added to the list during the season.*
 - *Players leaving early – umpires must be notified prior to the game start if a player needed to leave the game early. Players leaving during a game will not be recorded as an out when the umpire has been notified before the game that the player will be leaving or if the player has been injured. Players ejected will be recorded as outs.*
 - *The following were not accepted:*
 - *Subs from other teams should wear either the VSS shirt from their regular team, a VSS shirt from the team they are substituting for, or may wear a non-VSS shirt provided it is not the same color as the opposing team. Pool players may wear a VSS shirt from the team they are playing from or a non-VSS shirt provided it is not the same color as the opposing team.*
 - *Volunteer umpires must be paying members of the league.*
 - *The other Not Recommended/Withdrawn rule changes from the rules committee were discussed and not approved by the board.*
- *The Board will also ask the Home team manager, when reporting the score to the statistician, to also report:*
 - *the last inning of the game played*
 - *the number of players in the lineups*

This will allow the Board to better understand games that do not play a full 7 innings and the impact of different size lineups on game results.

- External : Bill, Jim
 - *Per VSS By-laws, (Section 5) , there is an obligation to support external competition games with VSS teams*
 - *In the past, there has been league participation in 60,65,70,75 aged-level teams in Cape Cod tournaments (September) upon different years as there was member interest. In September 2023 the Vernon 75's team had 16 players total, 9 from VSS and 7 from elsewhere. Then an additional tournament was organized called a One-pitch and organized by VSS; it has been held the last 2 years and received well.*
 - *To begin planning for interest and numbers, Bill will send out an email to the league membership to collect interest in playing in any Cape tournament*
- Sponsorship- John, Jack
 - *5 Sponsors have indicated their continued sponsorship in the 2024 season*
- ***Player/Manager comments***
 - None offered

Next meeting: March 11 6pm at Shea's

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Gretzmacher, Recording Secretary
2/5/2023